

\$165,000 awarded to regional businesses by LANS

January 1, 2013



Los Alamos National Security, LLC's Venture Acceleration Fund (VAF) will help four regional businesses with awards totaling \$165,000. The companies Mustomo, Inc. (Los Alamos), IX Power (Los Alamos), Synfolia (Santa Fe), and Tape-Ease (Santa Fe) represent two biotech start-ups, a water and power company, and a hardware inventor.

Mustomo, Inc. received \$100,000 to commercialize novel LANL technology for breast cancer screening and detection. The ultrasound-based, three-dimensional tomography system the company developed has significant advantages over x-ray mammograms and ultrasound screenings since it's safe and comfortable, has high-resolution capabilities, and is easy to administer. In conjunction with clinical trials at the University of New Mexico Medical Center, Mustomo will use its VAF award to complete an operator manual, procedural guide, quality assurance and test plans, and

to implement on-site training and a test-result review. The company will also prepare a preliminary Food and Drug Administration filing prior to entering the marketplace.

IX Power received \$30,000 to develop a product demonstration for Trans-Ex, a software package developed at LANL to optimize electric power grid supply and delivery configuration. IX Power will partner with Local Power of Marshall, CA, to identify candidate sites and market opportunities for renewable energy and efficiency deployments in San Francisco. The team includes six IX Power founders led by CEO John R. (Grizz) Deal, former LANL Computer Research & Applications Group Leader Vance Faber, and former LANL scientist Jonathan Bradley. Gaspar Loren Toole of Los Alamos will provide technical assistance to the company through the New Mexico Small Business Assistance program.

Synfolia of Santa Fe received \$20,000 to conduct materials and biodegradability testing for tailored tissue scaffolds that regenerate epidermal and bone tissue. The company has exclusive rights to commercialize technology that was jointly developed by the University of New Mexico and Sandia National Laboratories. The company's bioengineered scaffolds improve upon products currently used for tissue generation because they use the patient's own cells and degrade easily. Synfolia's team includes Elizabeth Dirk of the University of New Mexico, Shawn Dirk, Stephen P. Buerger of Sandia National Laboratories, and Dr. Reza Shekarritz.

Tape-Ease received \$15,000 to manufacture and market its products through trade shows, merchandising, and video production. The woman-owned company invented practical tools that attach to a standard tape measure, enabling accurate and quick measurements by a single person. Tape-Ease secured a manufacturer and began distribution with a phenomenal initial response, prompting Tape-Ease to seek VAF support to capitalize on interest in the product. "The funding allowed us to accelerate our momentum in fulfilling orders and marketing our products," says Tape-Ease founder Linda Johnson. "By helping us attend the International Builders Show for the first time, VAF opened the door to distributors from all over the world. VAF has been a lifeline for Tape-Ease. We're so grateful!"

Los Alamos National Security, LLC, manager of Los Alamos National Laboratory, invests \$1 million per year in economic development through its Los Alamos Connect program, which promotes VAF and a variety of other business development resources. The VAF efforts have generated a \$24 million return in the regional economy on a \$2.46 million LANS investment and helped create or retain 48 jobs.

For more information on the Venture Acceleration Fund, go to <http://losalamosconnect.net/index.php?page=lans-venture-acceleration-fund>.

Los Alamos National Laboratory

www.lanl.gov

(505) 667-7000

Los Alamos, NM

Operated by Los Alamos National Security, LLC for the Department of Energy's NNSA

